

THE KETELHUYN CHRONICLES.

CHAPTER I.

JOACHIM KETELHUYN AND HIS ANCESTORS.

1451-1682.

THE German-Saxon name Pomore or Pommern, meaning "on the sea," designates a maritime province in Prussia, bounded on the north by the Baltic Sea, on the west by the province of Mecklenburg, on the south by that of Brandenburg, and on the east by West Prussia. It is geographically divided into three districts: Stralsund, Stettin, and Cöslin. The surface of the province is low and flat. The inhabitants—racially descendants of an ancient Saxon people—are generally tall and robust. The mediæval history of this part of Germany describes it as successively subdivided among different lines of ducal houses.

Off the irregularly indented coast of the province lies the island of Rügen, in the Baltic Sea, immediately opposite the city of Stralsund, from which it is separated by a navigable strait. The island's greatest length from north to south is thirty-two miles, with a width of twenty-five. On it is Putbus, the capital of the old barony of the princes of Putbus.



SEAL OF THE CITY
OF STRALSUND.

The ancestral estates of the Ketel family, called as early as 1451 Ketelshagen,¹ were on the island of Rügen, where the family was long famous in the history of its nobility. The patril title was also written Ketele, Kettele, and Kettel.

The name is evidently of Scandinavian origin. The Norwegian conqueror of the Hebrides and founder of the *jarls* (noblemen) of the Western Isles was distinguished by the appellation Ketyl. For many years certain members of the Ketyl family held offices of repute in Iceland, where one known as Ketel Hlaeng was greatly honored by the inhabitants.

¹ The Ketel plantations; from the German substantive *lag*, a place fenced in, precinct, enclosure.